SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Final victory is ours

WHILE resolved to fight the US aggressors, our people constantly show their good-will for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue. The seven-point peace proposal set forth on July 1, 1971 by the PRG fully reflects its fair and reasonable stand regarding a solution to the Viet Nam issue on the basis of ensuring the Vietnamese people's fundamental rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. However, on the battlefields and at the conference table alike, the Nixon government clings to its colonialist and aggressive stand and schemes to turn South Viet Nam into a US new-type colony and military base. The so-called "eight-point peace plan" trotted out by Nixon on January 25, once again laid bare the utterly cynical scheme of US neo-colonialism.

Nixon is obdurately pursuing the policy of "Vietnamizing the war" in the hope of internationalizing US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The "Vietnamization of the war" is Nixon's brutal and perfidious trick to "make the Vietnamese fight the Vietnamese" with US weapons and dollars, and under US command. Heavy defeats on various battlefields and compounded difficulties in political, economic and financial fields at home and abroad, have forced Nixon to withdraw US troops allegedly to "end US involvement." But, under Nixon's "Vietnamization of the war," pull-out of troops does not mean an end to the war but its prolongation and extension; not the total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam, but leaving part of the US armed forces to permanently occupy a number of military bases and use them as bridgeheads to help the Saigon puppet army continue the US war of aggression. Nixon continues using South Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries as a testing ground for the "Nixon doctrine" and US new strategies, tactics, war means and weapons. Nixon stubbornly maintains the bellicose traitor Nguyen Van Thieu and the Saigon repressive and coercive machine and uses it as a tool to implement the "Vietnamization of the war" and neo-colonialism of the US.

IN furtherance of the "Vietnamization" program, the US and Thieu frenziedly impress the youths, "upgrade" paramilitary forces into the regular troops, train the Saigon puppet army into "strategic shock forces," reinforce their repressive and coercive machine by a system of posts, pill-boxes, concentration camps dubbed "strategic hamlets," "resettlement villages" and "refugees camps," in an attempt to stamp out the patriotic struggle of the South Vietnamese people and scrape up manpower and wealth to serve the US war of aggression. They brutally repress all social strata, political forces, religious communities and anyone who does not side with them. They increase taxes to shift the whole burden of the war onto the people, thus rendering the life of the urban people and those living in the areas under their control still more precarious. They have committed extremely barbarous acts of genocidal and ecocidal war under their plan of "rural pacification" which consists in herding the population into detention camps, and deporting to Nam Bo's concentration camps millions of people in Quang Tri, Thua Thien and other provinces of Central Trung Bo. Millions of tons of bombs, shells and toxic chemicals have been rained on South Viet Nam to serve this "key strategic measure" of the "Vietnamization" of the war.

Nixon nurtures the day dream of turning "Vietnamization" into a magic wand which will help him reserve the situation, which over one million US troops have failed to do. Nixon has not yet learned the lesson of shameful defeats from his predecessors, and from his own bitter experiences in three years of office. And the more he sustains defeats, the more he shows his bellicosity and perfidy. To gain another term in US presidency, he does not hesitate to trample upon the honour of the United States, lengthen the list of US casualties in South Viet Nam and delay the repatriation of US troops, including captured servicemen. But that is the way to his political doom, to the United States' involvement in the "longest, most violent and most difficult" war of her history.

THE way-out for the US has been shown by the PRG. Its 7-point proposal and the DRVN 9 points fully conform with the interests of the Vietnamese and American peoples, and the world peoples' aspiration for peace. Paying due consideration to the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Viet Nam people's right to self-determination, on February 2, the PRG brought the following precisions:

1. Regarding the withdrawal of US troops and the cessation of the US air war and all US military activities in Viet Nam

The US Government must stop its air war and all military activities in Viet Nam, rapidly and completely withdraw all US troops, advisers, military personnel, weapons and war materials and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam and dismantle the US military bases in South Viet Nam.

The US Government must **set a specific terminal date for the complete withdrawal of all US troops, advisers, military personnel, weapons and war materials and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam without posing any condition whatsoever.** *This specific terminal date will also be the date for the release of all militarymen of the parties and of the civilians captured in the war (including the US pilots captured in North Viet Nam).*

2. Regarding the political problem in South Viet Nam

The US Government must really respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, put an end to all interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam.

Nguyen Van Thieu and his machine of oppression and constraint, instruments of the US "Vietnamization" policy, constitute the main obstacle to the settlement of the political problem in South Viet Nam. Therefore, **Nguyen Van Thieu must resign immediately, the Saigon administration must end its warlike policy, disband at once its machine of oppression and constraint against the people, stop its "pacification" policy, disband the concentration camps, set free those persons arrested on political grounds and guarantee to the people the democratic liberties as provided for by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.**

After the above has been achieved, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam will immediately discuss with the Saigon administration the formation of a three-segment government of national concord with a view to organizing general elections in South Viet Nam, to elect a constituent Assembly, work out a Constitution, and set up the definitive government of South Viet Nam. The general elections will be held according to procedures agreed upon among the political forces in South Viet Nam so as to ensure effectively free, democratic and fair character.

FOR national independence and freedom, the South Vietnamese people have bravely confronted and checked the deadly fury of the Yankees. Nixon's Vietnamization has experienced a notable setback. For 25 years now, we have been struggling and become stronger and stronger. Every political and military scheme of Washington has been shattered by our patriotism, revolutionary heroism and creativeness. Nixon's prosecution of the war only stiffens our resistance. "As long as there remains a single aggressor on our land, we shall carry on our fight to sweep him away," said President Ho Chi Minh. Loyal to his teaching, we pledge to fight side by side with our brother in Cambodia and Laos, smash the Nixon doctrine and perfidious program of "Vietnamization" in order to ensure total victory to the anti-US resistance of the three Indochinese countries.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

Lotus in the Plain of Reeds

On the Peaceful Settlement of the Viet Nam Problem

1 JUN 1

Statement by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam

ON January 25, 1972, US President Nixon put forward an "eight-point peace plan," claiming it to be a "far-reaching" plan, "the most comprehensive" one "to end the war now," "to bring about peace that could last" in Viet Nam.

The facts on the battlefields and at the negotiating table have completely refuted the above contentions of the Nixon Administration.

Over the three years which have elapsed since President Nixon took office, the US imperialists have pursued the objective of turning South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and a military base of the United States, and perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam, thus grossly trampling upon the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

In its losing position, the Nixon Administration, although compelled to withdraw a great part of US troops from South Viet Nam, has made every effort to carry out the "Vietnamization" policy with a view to making Vietnamese kill Vietnamese in an attempt to achieve the US neo-colonialist designs.

In pursuance of the "Vietnamization" plan, the US imperialists, while using millions of tons of bombs and toxic chemicals for a war of genocide, biocide and ecocide in South Viet Nam, have made frenzied efforts to build in South Viet Nam a huge machine of oppression and constraint including an almost one million-strong army, a system of policemen, secret agents, spies and cruel agents, tens of thousands of military posts concentration camps and "tiger-cage" - type prisons, etc. Bloody "pacification" and "Phoenix" operations have been stepped up, entire villages razed to the ground, and people herded into concentration camps. At present millions of inhabitants of the Northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam are being forcibly driven away from their native places into concentration camps in Nam Bo. Cruel measures of repression and terror have been taken against all social strata, political forces, religious communities and even those people who do not belong to the gang of the ruling clique. Sufferings and mournings have thus been caused to all hamlets, streets and families. This machine of oppression and constraint and this extremely cruel policy of terror have deprived the South Vietnamese people of their right to be masters of their land, of all their democratic freedoms.

In implementation of the "Vietnamization" plan designed to shift the burden of war to the South Vietnamese people, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration on US orders has imposed increased taxation, put forward the so-called "seven economic measures," the "fall economic program"... to sweep off manpower and material resources of the South Vietnamese people, increasingly driving our countrymen into dire misery.

With bloody measures of terror and repression, and harsh methods of exploitation to bleed white the people, the US-puppets have turned the areas of South Viet Nam under their temporary control into a huge concentration camp, a huge barrack, a hell on earth.

The Nixon Administration has intensified and expanded the war of aggression to the whole of Indochina, escalated the air war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, frenziedly pressganged troops, sent officers and men of the Saigon army to die in the place of Americans in Laos and Cambodia, thus carrying out the "Nixon doctrine" to "make Indochinese fight Indochinese," to "make Asians fight Asians."

President Nixon has brazenly betrayed his presidential election promise to bring the war to an early end. After over three years in office, he has not ended the war, but has prolonged, intensified and expanded it, further piling up crimes against the Indochinese peoples, causing more losses in terms of lives and money to the American people, frustrating the American servicemen, including those captured, of the chance of being reunited with their families.

In the negotiations, President Nixon, with his mandate nearing its end, has nevertheless tried to prolong and hinder the negotiations in an attempt to buy time for the "Vietnamization" of the war, to achieve his objective of clinging to South Viet Nam through neo-colonialism.

President Nixon's "eight-point peace plan" of January 25, 1972 has once again laid bare the above US schemes of neo-colonialism. His statement about readiness "to withdraw all forces within six months of an agreement" without setting any specific terminal date for the withdrawals is precisely designed to maintain indefinitely the occupation of South Viet Nam by some US forces. By resorting to the trick of Thieu and Huong handing in their resignation and holding elections within the framework of the US stooge administration, President Nixon has attempted to force the South Vietnamese people to accept the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration, and to negate the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the genuine and legal representative of the South Vietnamese people. On the other hand, the holding of elections in the grip of the US - stooge administration's machine of constraint would be a mere replay of the extremely base Saigon "election farce" of October 1961.

Obviously, President Nixon's "eight-point peace plan" is merely a plan for "Vietnamization" of the war, a US neo-colonialism plan. By noisily publicizing it, he aimed at deceiving American public opinion in a Presidential election year in the United States, and to side-track world public opinion which is firmly demanding that the Nixon Administration put an immediate end to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam declares it does not accept this deceitful "peace plan" of the Nixon Administration.

FOR the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, the Vietnamese people, bringing into play the tradition of dauntless struggle against the imperialist aggressors, have heroically risen up in a patriotic fight against US aggression. This earnest aspiration is an inexhaustible source of strength which has impelled the Vietnamese people to overcome countless ordeals, to brave all hardships and sacrifices, to fight with boundless heroism, to bring into play their creative spirit in a struggle which they know how to wage to defeat the US imperialist aggressors, whose wicked and perfidious military and political plans have been foiled.

While resolutely fighting against US aggression, the Vietnamese people have always shown their good will and desire to settle peacefully the Viet Nam problem. Their negotiating position, the most reasonable and logical one, designed to bring about genuine peace and independence, has been given a full expression in the seven-point solution put forward on July 1, 1971, by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and in the nine-point proposal made on June 26, 1971, by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Proceeding from the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, *the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam wishes to elaborate on the two key problems in the seven-point solution to stop the US war of aggression, and to put a complete end to the "Vietnamization" policy as follows:*

1. *Regarding the withdrawal of US troop and the cessation of the US air war and all US military activities in Viet Nam.*

The US Government must stop its air war and all military activities in Viet Nam, rapidly and completely withdraw all US troops, advisers, military personnel, weapons and war materials and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam and dismantle the US military bases in South Viet Nam.

The US Government must **set a specific terminal date for the complete withdrawal of all US troops, advisers, military personnel, weapons and war materials and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam without posing any condition whatsoever.** This specific terminal date will also be the date for the release of all militarymen of the parties and of the civilians captured in the war (including the US pilots captured in North Viet Nam).

2. *Regarding the political problem in South Viet Nam.*

The US Government must really respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, put an end to all interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam.

Nguyen Van Thieu and his machine of oppression and constraint, instruments of the US "Vietnamization" policy, constitute the main obstacle to the settlement of the political problem in South Viet Nam. Therefore, **Nguyen Van Thieu must resign immediately, the Saigon administration must end its warlike policy, disband at once its machine of oppression and constraint against the people, stop its "pacification" policy, disband concentration camps, set free those persons arrested on political grounds and guarantee to the people the democratic liberties as provided for by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.**

After the above has been achieved, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam will immediately discuss with the Saigon administration the formation of a three-segment government of national concord with a view to organizing general elections in South Viet Nam, to elect a constituent Assembly, work out a Constitution, and set up the definitive government of South Viet Nam. The general elections will be held according to procedures agreed upon among the political forces in South Viet Nam so as to ensure effectively free, democratic and fair character.

Agreement on the above two key problems will make it easy to resolve the other problems with a view to ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam. For its part, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is prepared to negotiate an overall solution for the purpose of signing a comprehensive agreement.

If the US Government really wants a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem, it must respond to the seven-point solution whose two key problems have been elaborated above, and it must engage in serious negotations at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

So long as the US imperialists continue their aggression in Viet Nam and pursue their "Vietnamization" policy with a view to turning South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and a military base of the United States, the South Vietnamese people together with their countrymen in the whole country are determined to persist in, and step up, the fight till total victory. At the same time, they are resolved to fight shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia to defeat the US imperialist aggressors and their henchmen. No brute force, no insolent threat, no perfidious trick can cause the Vietnamese people to deviate from their noble objectives, viz independence, freedom and advance to reunification of the country.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam calls on the entire armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, acting on President Ho Chi Minh's teaching "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," to close their ranks, to march forward in the flush of victory, to overcome all difficulties and hardships, with the determination to foil the US "Vietnamization" plan, to fight so as to bring about the complete withdrawal of all US troops and the collapse of the puppet army and administration, to liberate the South, to defend the North and to proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam calls on the officers and men in the Saigon army to respond to its Appeal of January 25, 1972 to join in time their countrymen in the fight to drive away the US aggressors, to topple Thieu, and to contribute to the liberation of the native place, of the Fatherland.

The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam express their extremely deep sentiments toward the countrymen in the North who have shrunk from no sacrifice or hardship for the kith-and-kin South. Since the US imperialist intensified their aggression in our country, all countrynen all over the country, united as one man, have stood up against them, which is a deep expression of the kith-and-kin relations between North and South and of the undaunted will of our entire people. On the frontline of the fight against US aggression,

(Continued on page 3)

RSVN PRG Council Holds 1972 New Year Meeting

US Imperialists and Their Henchmen Will Certainly End in Total Failure

Recently, somewhere in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam, the Council of the RSVN PRG held its New Year meeting to review the situation in the past year and map out the direction and tasks for the entire people and armed forces in this year with a view to completely defeating the "Vietnamization of the war" plan and pushing forward the anti-US aggression resistance, for national salvation until total victory.

Many ministers, vice-ministers and representatives of the Advisory Council of the RSVN PRG attended.

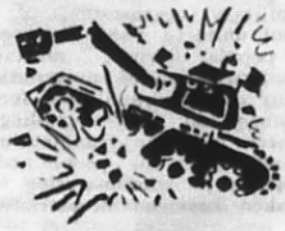
After six days of intensive work, the Council, presided by President Huynh Tan Phat, adopted a communiqué on the session, a statement of the RSVN PRG on the US-Thieu forcible conscription of South Vietnamese youth as cannon-fodder for the US aggressors and decisions on citations to individuals, units and localities with brilliant records in the past year.

The Communiqué said :

"THE Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government noted that 1971 was a year in which the US imperialists' policy of 'Vietnamization of the war' was carried to the highest level, but at the same time suffered a most severe setback. Meanwhile, the South Vietnamese people and liberation armed forces enhanced their position of all-round offensive on the three areas and won many victories of strategic significance.

On the military front, our liberation armed forces and people standing shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal armies and peoples of Cambodia and Laos smashed all military adventures of the US-puppets in 1970 and in the early days of the 1971 dry season, wiping out an important part of the most seasoned mobile strategic force and destroying a very large quantity of war means of the Saigon puppet army, foiling all the main tactics of the enemy and driving them into serious disintegration. The three kinds of our armed forces (regular forces, regional forces and guerillas) grew further in quantity as well as fighting ability. Nixon's most hopeful formula, 'puppet troops plus US fire power and air force' has gone bankrupt, the Saigon puppet army has proved unable either to play the role of mainstay of the US war in Indochina or to provide support for the 'rural pacification program.'

In the struggle to frustrate the enemy rural pacification we and the enemy were engaged in a very bitter and complex battle for the control of the countryside. The US imperialists and their henchmen resorted to every brutal and perfidious scheme to tighten their control over the people, and whittle down the revolutionary forces, causing untold physical and moral suffering to our people. However, they met with fierce resistance from our people. Never had the contradictions between the South Vietnamese people and the US-puppet clique been so sharp as in the past year. Seething with hatred, our people, under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and their revolutionary administration, further closed their ranks and with courage and persistence and by diversified and resourceful methods, rose up to fight against the enemy and save the country and their homes. Millions of people rose up and smashed the enemy coercive machine at different levels with the determination to wrest back and defend their homes and lands, to protect the youth from being drafted into the puppet army and resist the enemy forcible conscription and 'upgrading' of paramilitary forces into puppet regular forces...



In the urban centres, due to the enemy policy of downright repression, persecution and harsh exploitation of all strata of the people, the anti-US and anti-Thieu struggle reached a new and higher level, became more continuous and seething and assumed a higher militancy manifested in different forms. As their daily life was under constant threat and their existence and freedom trampled upon, more and more people in urban centres vigorously stood up to 'chase the US and topple the Thieu clique' to materialize their urgent aspirations, namely to end the war, restore peace and national concord and wrest back independence, freedom and happiness.

In face of the danger of bankruptcy of the policy of 'Vietnamization of the war' the enemy frantically stepped up the 'Khmerization' and 'Laotianization' policy to save the situation. They intensified the use of aircraft on the whole Indochinese battlefield and recklessly bombed the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in an attempt to ward off the failure of the 'Nixon doctrine' in Indochina and win a position of strength at the Paris conference on Viet Nam. All these savage acts have had the inevitable effect of strengthening the militant solidarity and co-ordination of the Indochinese peoples and stronger condemnation of the stubborn, bellicose, aggressive and brutal nature by public opinion in the United States and the world over."

The Communiqué went on :

"The Council noted that the above-said situation pointed to the deep changes in the balance of forces in our favour and that the struggle of our people is advancing favourably toward new and yet greater victories.

However, the Nixon administration is scheming to prolong the war, frenziedly repressing, terrorizing and looting our people, drafting the youth and 'upgrading' paramilitary forces into the regular army with a view to bolstering up the Saigon puppet army and preserving the cruel and rotten Nguyen Van Thieu administration as a tool for the realization of the US neo-colonialism in our country. Therefore, in order to protect our fundamental national rights, fulfil our sacred mission toward our Fatherland and the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia, and actively contribute to the world's national liberation movement, our entire armed forces and people will continue to broaden their militant solidarity, fight persistently, courageously and with increasing effectiveness till all the US and satellite troops will be withdrawn from our soil, and the puppet administration and army toppled, in order to achieve at all cost our immutable goal of building an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam and advancing to the peaceful reunification of our Homeland."

The Communiqué added :

"In order to create favourable conditions for the increasing patriotic acts in the families whose brothers and sons are being forced to fight for the US and the Thieu clique in different arms and services of the puppet army, the Council adopted the statement of the PRG on the US-Thieu forcible conscription of our youth as cannon-fodder for the US aggressors. The Council calls on all patriots, families which have their relatives drafted into the puppet army, all soldiers and officers in the puppet army and members of the puppet administration to actively respond to this statement of the PRG in order to save their own lives, their families and the country...

The Council warmly welcomes and expresses its profound gratitude to the peoples and governments of the socialist countries, the peoples and governments of various countries in the world including the progressive people in the United States who, for the cause of peace, justice, national independence and social progress, have sympathized with and actively supported the South Vietnamese people's just struggle for national salvation."

The Communiqué concluded :

"The achievements in 1971 have created for the revolution in South Viet Nam a new and very stable strategic position and an invincible strength for the South Vietnamese people and armed forces. On the contrary, the US imperialists and their henchmen are steadily losing their strength and will certainly end in total failure. Before the new prospects thus opened, the Council calls on the entire people and armed forces to further strengthen their unity and uphold their vigilance, and in the impetus of their victories to dash forward and bring into full play their position of all-round offensive and fearlessness of sacrifices and hardships to materialize President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: 'Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom', 'to fight till the US aggressors quit and the puppets are toppled'."

On the Peaceful Settlement...

(*Continued from page 2*)

the South Vietnamese armed forces and people pledge themselves to fulfil the glorious duty vis-à-vis the Fatherland with the firm resolve to inflict well-deserved punishments on the criminal adventurous acts of the US imperialists against the North, and together with the countrymen all over the country, to take the patriotic fight against US aggression to total victory.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam calls on the American people in the name of the honour and genuine interests of the United States to demand firmly that the Nixon administration put an immediate end to its war of aggression in Viet Nam, stop the "Vietnamization" policy, withdraw rapidly and completely all US troops from South Viet Nam, so that not any more young American dies a useless death in Viet Nam, and all American servicemen, including those captured, may be repatriated at an early date.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam sincerely thanks, and calls on, the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries, international organizations and the people around the world to demand firmly that the Nixon Administration stop immediately the war of aggression in Viet Nam, put an end to the "Vietnamization" policy, seriously respond to the seven-point solution whose two key problems have been further elaborated in this statement, and to extend increased support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's patriotic resistance against US aggression until total victory.

South Viet Nam, February 2, 1972

RSVN PRG CONCRETE POLICIES

concerning patriotic activities of puppet army officers and men, Saigon administration functionaries, and their families

On January 25, 1972, the RSVN PRG made public a declaration on the US-Thieu forcible conscription of South Vietnamese youths as cannon-fodder for the US war of aggression.

After bringing out the present situation in South Viet Nam, the declaration said :

MORE than ever before, the war situation is evolving very favourably to us and very unfavourably to the US imperialists and their flunkeys. Nevertheless, the US imperialist aggressors still remain very obdurate, and, at the end of their tether, are hatching perfidious and adventurous moves to save the "Vietnamization" and the Nixon doctrine. While paying lip service to peace and negotiations, they are in fact pushing tens of thousands of our sons to die on the battlefields of South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, and more barbarous still, are forcing over one million of our people in the demarcation zone to leave their native places, along with bombing and threatening North Viet Nam and plotting to wreck the Paris Conference.

The above situation faces our entire army and people with the urgent task of enhancing solidarity, bringing into full play the victories already recorded, persisting in, and stepping up, the struggle to completely defeat the "Vietnamization" policy and the "Nixon doctrine," fight till the US totally withdraws from South Viet Nam, the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu is toppled, and our people win back peace, independence, freedom and happiness.

We must check in time all US-Thieu brutal and perfidious schemes under the "Vietnamization" policy and the "Nixon doctrine," resolutely prevent them from using our people's manpower and resources, forcing our husbands, sons and brothers to fight as mercenaries and die for the US aggressors, from materializing their policy of using Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese, and Asians to kill Asians, in order to prolong their aggressive war in South Viet Nam and the three Indochinese countries.

In keeping with the people's aspirations and to create favourable conditions for all patriotic Vietnamese and all families having their sons, brothers or husbands drafted by the enemy into the army as well as all persons forced by the enemy to carry arms and die for the US aggressors, to take part in the fight to drive away the US and owerthrow Nguyen Van Thieu in defence of the Fatherland, and save their husbands, sons and brothers, and to completely defeat the enemy's "Vietnamization" policy ;

Proceeding from the unswerving policy of broad unity and the Program of Actions against US Aggression, for National Salvation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and of the National Congress convened in June 1969 ;

The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government makes public the following concrete policies :

1 — The entire people unite and struggle to defend the Fatherland and prevent the youths from forcible conscription and forcible upgrading into the regular puppet army by the US-Thieu clique to die for the US.

a) Every patriotic Vietnamese has the honour to defend the Fatherland, in every form, depending on his or her conditions and abilities.

The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government calls on the entire people to enhance their solidarity in the struggle to foil the US imperialists' "Vietnamization" policy of using Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese and Asians to kill Asians, refuse to let the US-Thieu clique transform their husbands, sons and brothers into an instrument to kill their countrymen and die for the US aggressors in Laos and Cambodia.

b) Those who actively defend their dear ones or provide active protection and shelter for the youths from the enemy's draft and "upgrading" scheme will enjoy wholehearted assistance from the people and revolutionary administration.

c) Those who actively persuade and assist Saigon armymen to leave the enemy ranks and return to the people or persuade them to rise up against the US-Thieu and save the country will be cited and rewarded.

d) Those who are repressed, terrorized, wounded or jailed during their struggle to protect the youths and oppose the draft and "upgrading" will enjoy wholehearted assistance and support from the people and revolutionary administration in their production activities and livelihood.

2 — With regard to the families whose dear ones have been forced into the "popular defence" and the other forces of the puppet army.

a) All the families whose dear ones have been forced by the US-Thieu clique into the "popular defence" or any other force of the puppet army are considered as victims of the US imperialists' aggressive policy. The people and National Front for Liberation of South Viet Nam and the revolutionary administration make no discrimination against them.

b) Those families who actively advise their husbands, sons and brothers to maintain good relations with the people, refuse to let the cruel thugs force them to harm the people and the revolution will be welcomed and commended.

c) Those families who succeed in persuading their husbands, sons and brothers to leave the enemy ranks and return to their families and people will be commended and rewarded if their husbands, sons and brothers have recorded meritorious deeds.

d) Those families who succeed in persuading their husbands, sons and brothers to revolt will be recognized as "insurgent families" and duly rewarded and commended.

3 — With regard to those forced into the "popular defence" and other para-military organizations of the enemy.

a) Those who are forced into the "popular defence" and other para-military organizations of the enemy but unite to resist the organization of "popular defence," military training, militarization of universities, against any other paramilitary forces of the enemy and the "upgrading" of these forces into the regular army will be regarded by the people and the revolutionary administration as having taken commendable patriotic acts.

b) Those who are forced by the enemy into the "popular defence" organizations and have not yet found the way to escape it but keep good relations with the people and the revolution, oppose the cruel thugs in the coercive forces, refuse to take part in terror operations against their countrymen, resist the draft and army "upgrading," and sympathize with and support the people's struggle, will have their merits recorded by the people and the revolutionary power.

c) Those in the "popular defence" forces who rise up and together with the people punish the cruel agents, smash the enemy coercive machine, bring power into the people's hands, liberate their native places or try in every way to help the people and the revolution will be appropriately rewarded according to their merits. The people and the revolutionary power encourage and welcome all those who want to take part in the fight on the side of the people and the revolution.

4 — With regard to soldiers, officers, units and posts belonging to the "popular defence" and "civil guard."

a) Those soldiers, officers, units and posts belonging to the "popular defence" and "civil guard" who take actions against "upgrading," forcible conscription, harsh control and exploitation by cruel commanders, terror raids against the people, setting up of posts and nibbling operations, will receive active help from the people and revolutionary administration.

b) Those soldiers, officers, units and posts of the "popular defense" and "civil guard" who keep good relations with the people, let the people move freely to carry out production and work, and sympathize with the people's struggle, will be recognized by the people and revolutionary administration as having taken patriotic actions and will have their merits recorded.

c) Those soldiers, officers, units and posts of the "popular defence" and "civil guard" who rise up and together with the people punish cruel agents, destroy enemy posts, smash the enemy coercive machine and liberate villages will be regarded as uprising soldiers, officers and units and will be duly rewarded.

5 — With regard to soldiers and officers in different arms and services of the puppet regular army.

a) Those soldiers and officers in different arms and services of the puppet regular army who oppose the US-Thieu clique's brutal militarist regime and demand the improvement of their own living conditions and those of their families will win the sympathy and support of the people and revolutionary administration.

b) Those individuals, collectives or units who oppose the enemy order to go to the battlefront, to Cambodia and Laos, etc., or leave the enemy ranks to return to their families and to the people will be actively sheltered, protected by the people and revolutionary administration, helped to earn their living and provided opportunity to return to their families and native places.

c) Those soldiers, officers, individuals, collectives or units who stage mutinies at the front and inform in time the liberation forces of their actions will receive assistance. Those who cross over to the revolution will be welcomed. The PLAF front command is ready to assist and accept them and meet their desires. Those with meritorious deeds will be rewarded.

d) Those soldiers, officers or units who rise up in revolt will be welcomed by the people and revolutionary administration, rewarded according to their merits, recognized as insurgent soldiers, officers and units. Their units will be retained and the officers will keep their ranks, will be assigned to appropriate posts and treated in equality.

6 — With regard to the pupils, students, intellectuals and functionaries forced into the puppet officer corps and with regard to puppet army officers.

a) Those pupils, students, intellectuals and functionaries forcibly made puppet officers who keep good relations with the people, refrain from bullying the soldiers, do not compel their men to conduct raids and harm the people's property and lives, who sympathize with and support the people's struggle, will be welcomed and rewarded by the people and revolutionary administration.

b) With regard to those officers who take actions against the US-Thieu clique and stand for peace, neutrality and national concord, the National Front for Liberation and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government are ready to establish good relations and co-operate with them in resisting the US-Thieu clique, to win back peace, independence, freedom and happiness for the entire people.

7 — With regard to functionaries of the puppet administration at all levels.

a) Those who for one reason or another still have to serve in the puppet administration at various levels but keep good relations with the people and try to protect the people's property and lives, oppose all the perfidious schemes of the US-puppets and their cruel agents and sympathize with and support the people's struggle, will have their achievements taken into account.

b) The nationalist-minded persons who rise up together with the people to topple the US-puppet rule so as to liberate the homeland, and record exploits in the cause of national salvation will be rewarded and assigned to appropriate posts.

8 — With regard to the police

a) The US-Thieu clique have set up the police as an instrument to directly plunder the people and to repress and terrorize the people's struggles. The people and the revolutionary administration call on all the persons in the US-puppet police organizations and other similar organizations to quickly wake up and seek every way to escape from the enemy wicked schemes and not to let the enemy push them onto the criminal path against the people and the Fatherland.

b) Those who for one reason or another still have to serve in the police force but keep good relations with the people, refuse to terrorize the people, sympathize with, support or refrain from repressing, the people's struggle will be welcomed by the people and the revolutionary administration.

c) Those who want to leave the police force to return to their families will be assisted by the people and the revolutionary administration.

d) The people and the revolutionary administration will commend those who defend the people's property and lives and help the people and the revolutionary administration. Their exploits will be properly rewarded.

9 — With regard to surrendering and captured soldiers.

Surrendering soldiers will be kindly treated by the people and the revolutionary administration and their desires will be met. Captured soldiers will receive humane treatment.

10 — With regard to those who have committed crimes but now are sincerely repentant.

The people and the revolutionary administration apply a lenient policy toward those who have committed crimes against the people and the Fatherland but are sincerely repentant. Those who redeem their crimes with meritorious services will be rewarded according to their merits.

A crime : *hundreds of thousands of young South Vietnamese turned into cannon-fodder and corpses by the US*

A sincere and heartfelt appeal

THE Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on January 25, 1972 issued a statement proclaiming the 10 concrete policies vis-à-vis those who are forced or misled into serving the aggressive policy of the US imperialists.

The statement also reaffirmed the lenient policy expounded in the Political Program and statements of the National Front for Liberation as well as in the Program of Actions of the RSVN PRG and shows the PRG's profound and sincere understanding of the sons of the Fatherland who are still in the enemy ranks. The statement is a beacon which blazes the way back to justice for those who have been driven by the aggressors into a stormy sea. It is also a clarion call awakening soldiers, officers, policemen and functionaries in the puppet army and administration and encouraging them to take actions to escape the miserable life and return to the Fatherland, the people and their families who are waiting for them.

The statement of the RSVN PRG made public at a moment when the bellicose Nixon administration is sustaining heavy failures and beset with piling difficulties, and finding itself in a critical situation and utter isolation, further manifests the PRG's lenient policy and deep spirit of broad national concord.

Being forced to withdraw step by step US troops from South Viet Nam in order to reduce US casualties, war expenditures and internal and external difficulties and to fool public opinion, Nixon has tried his hardest to push ahead "Vietnamization," spur the Saigon puppet administration to step up forcible conscription of youths and "upgrading" of the paramilitary forces into regular forces to strengthen the puppet army and retlace US troops in the hope of putting into effect the US policy of neo-colonialism. At a conference held in Berlin in 1971, US and world scientists condemned the US "new form of war" which is aimed at exterminating a nation with the minimum losses in lives for the aggressors.

The "Vietnamization" of the US aggressive war has upset the social life and gravely hurt the sentiment of our people of various strata, political tendencies, religions in the cities as well as in the countryside including those in the puppet army and administration. Never have the contradictions between our people and the US imperialists and the traitorous clique headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, US faithful running dog, been sharp as at present.

With their policy to "Vietnamize" the war, the US imperialists are continuing their aggression by using our people's blood, and more perfidious still, they want to turn the hatred of our people for the US imperialists into mutual hatred and suspicion among our people. In their sentimental, spiritual, economic, cultural and social life, our people have been driven into unbearable misery. Every family, every village and every area has sustained losses, suffering, mourning and dismemberment. As the statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has pointed out: "We must check and smash in time all US-Thieu brutal and perfidious schemes in the 'Vietnamization' policy and the 'Nixon doctrine', resolutely prevent them from using our people's manpower and resources, forcing our husbands, sons and brothers to fight as mercenaries and die for the US aggressors, from materializing their policy of using Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese, and Asians to kill Asians, in order to prolong their aggressive war in the South of our country and in all the three Indochinese countries."

Those who are forced or misled into the enemy ranks remain Vietnamese and are also living in their homeland trampled upon and devastated by the US aggressors. Like any other Vietnamese, they are proud of the 4,000-year history of glorious struggle of the nation against foreign aggressions.

In face of the painful sight of their country being invaded, their homes razed to the ground, their families dismembered and thrown into misery by the US imperialists, no Vietnamese can remain indifferent. What is more, those forced to hold enemy guns to kill their own people and destroy their own native land are themselves held in contempt by the US aggressors. They are forced to die for the aggressors not only in Viet Nam but also in Cambodia and Laos. The US bombings of wounded puppet soldiers to wipe away all traces of defeat and the instances of puppet troops kicked off by American pilots when they tried to cling to helicopter skids are sufficient to prove the cheap lives of those who are serving in the US-puppet ranks.

The ten concrete policies of the PRG of the RSVN vis-à-vis those who are forced or misled into the Saigon puppet army but are repenting over their misdeeds are sincere policies.

The RSVN PRG's statement is an appeal of the Fatherland. The Fatherland is extending its generous arms to everyone, and is ready to welcome back into its fold all those who sincerely repent. Those who scored meritorious deeds to redeem their past faults will be duly rewarded.

The Vietnamese people are reputed for their humanity, righteousness and faithfulness. They know how to love, assist and tolerate each other. Only the recalcitrant elements who resign themselves to be lackeys of foreigners are given severe treatment.

Flak Unit 3 of the 4th Military Zone commended
Unit Resolved to Win

the DRVN in brief

o Recently the Standing Committee of the DRVN National Assembly held a routine session under the chairmanship of Truong Chinh and

– passed the 1972 agenda of the Committee ;

– heard reports of the People's Supreme Court, the People's Supreme Prosecutor and the Ministry of Public Security on the implementation of the Resolution of the Committee on the amnesty of prisoners ;

– heard its Secretariat report on the settlement of people's claims or denunciations addressed to it, and worked out a number of measures to timely deal with them so as to meet the people's legitimate aspirations ;

– appointed members of its Secretariat ;

– awarded 16 Labour medals to localities, units and individuals with outstanding achievements in production, work and combat.

o President Ton Duc Thang of the DRVN sent a message warmly hailing and fully supporting the appeal of Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, on the 16th founding anniversary of the Front.

o Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, called at the district cadres course. He recommended them to get rid of the small producers' way of thinking and style of work, grasp science and technology, master economic management to improve leadership and give a push to the revolution.

o Of late, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front called a meeting under its President Ton Duc Thang.

The participants highly valued the Third Congress of the Front and mapped out various measures to follow up its success.

o Recently, the North Viet Nam trade union officials met to discuss the plan for workers and functionaries to hold a Congress of grassroots Trade Unions in preparation for the Third Congress of Viet Nam Trade Unions.

The meeting unanimously agreed that this Trade Union Congress will be a far-reaching political event : it will mobilize the workers and functionaries to push ahead the ebullient movement of production to raise labour efficiency.

o The Engineering and Metallurgical Industry Assembly Firm has just turned out waterproof tiles for industrial structures. They are made of coal-slags mixed with cement strengthened by discarded cablewire.

o The National Library has just completed a set of bibliographies on such subjects as "Restoration and Development of Agricultural Production after Floods", "Food Crops in Viet Nam", "Organization and Use of Agricultural Labour", "Irrigation and Drainage"... to help readers in their research.

The Polish Government Economic Delegation Visits the DRVN

AT the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an economic delegation of the Government of the Polish People's Republic led by Mr Wincenty Krasko, member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and Deputy Premier of the PPR Government, paid a friendly visit to the DRVN, held talks and signed agreements on many-sided aid to Viet Nam for 1972 and attended the 2nd meeting of the Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

During its stay in the DRVN, the PPR Government economic delegation was received by Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, Premier of the DRVN Government, who had a cordial talk with it.

On behalf of the Party, Government and people of the DRVN, Premier Pham Van Dong warmly welcomed the delegation, and expressed the deep feelings of the Vietnamese people toward the Polish people and sincere thanks to the Polish people, the Polish United Workers' Party and Government of the PPR for their warm support and precious assistance to the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression and their socialist construction.

It visited a number of industrial enterprises and economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Hai Phong, Ninh Binh and Quang Ninh coal mining area. Everywhere, the delegation was most warmly welcomed by the Vietnamese people.

The delegation called at the Special Representation of the RSVN in the DRVN and was warmly received by Mr Nguyen Phu Soai, acting Head of the Special Representation.

The PPR Government economic delegation held talks with the DRVN Government economic delegation led by Mr Le Thanh Nghi, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, Vice Premier, on the many-sided aid of the Polish People's Republic to Viet Nam for 1972 and on economic, scientific and technical co-operation between Viet Nam and Poland.

On behalf of the Polish people, the Polish United Workers' Party and Government, Deputy Premier Wincenty Krasko reiterated firm support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in their just struggle against US aggression till complete victory.

Deputy Premier Wincenty Krasko also expressed full support to the proposals of the DRVN Government and the seven points of the RSVN PRG on the settlement of the Viet Nam issue on the basis of the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. He denounced the US imperialists for continuing their policy of "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam and their air raids against the DRVN.

The PPR Government economic delegation affirmed that the Polish People's Republic, in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, will continue to reserve its solidarity, assistance and support to the DRVN, the entire Vietnamese people in their patriotic resistance against US aggression till total victory and in their socialist construction.

On behalf of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the DRVN Government and the Vietnamese people, Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi expressed sincere gratitude to the Polish people, the Polish United Workers' Party and the Government of the PPR for their active support and precious assistance to the Vietnamese people in their patriotic struggle against US aggression and in the socialist construction in the DRVN.

The Vietnamese people support the struggle of the Soviet Union, Poland and the other socialist countries in Europe against the militarist and reactionary forces to consolidate the gains of the anti-fascist world war and defend peace and security in Europe and the rest of the world. They hold that the treaties signed in 1970 between the Polish People's Republic and the German Federal Republic as well as the agreements on West Berlin in 1971 reaffirm the inviolability of the present borders between the European countries, and contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in Europe.

Nixon's "Peace Pl

THE so-called "8-point peace plan" recently put forth by Nixon has been sharply criticized by world-wide public opinion, including the American people.

Deputy-Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers Wolfgang Rauchfuss, and Czechoslovak Foreign Minister B. Kneupek termed "Nixon's peace plan" a new trick to fool public opinion and serve Nixon's scheme to keep the presidency for another term. It means continuation of the war, but the Nixon doctrine is in a serious predicament. Nixon's "peace plan" can deceive nobody.

Deputy-Secretary General of the Japanese Communist Party Kaneko Mitsuhiro remarked : "Nixon has spoken about the withdrawal of American and allied troops from South Viet Nam but has not fixed the deadline. He also argued that given the opponent's attitude in negotiation, the US would drag out the withdrawal of GIs and allied troops from South Viet Nam... And the new election in South Viet Nam would be but one staged under the Nguyen Van Thieu rule and occupation by the American troops... The proposal shows that the US has not given up its neo-colonialism disguised as 'Vietnamization'... "

The "Finland-Viet Nam" Association pointed out in a statement that "this declaration (of Nixon) proves that the US has not renounced its aggressive policy and its ill-famed 'Vietnamization' of the war."

At the recent meeting in Helsinki of the Presidium of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra, the latter's Secretary-General, highlighted the deceptive and demagogic nature of Nixon's "8-point plan" : "Nixon's

10 YEARS AFTER THE 2nd HAVANA DECLARATION

At present, Revolution is unavoidable in Latin America

THIS assertion has been substantiated by the realities in recent years, and further confirmed by developments in 1971, 10 years after the publication of the Havana Declaration. A high tide of the Latin American peoples' revolutionary offensive against the US imperialists mounted in the past year.

Proudly standing in the Caribbean Sea area, Cuba — the standard bearer of the revolutionary movement in the Western Hemisphere — successfully fulfilled the first year portion of its first 5-year plan (1971-1975), and has foiled all the provocative, subversive and aggressive schemes of the US imperialists and their agents. The light emanating from this beacon struck greater fear into the heart of the US owl, but on the other hand it became more attractive to the oppressed people in Latin America.

A new revolutionary path was opened and stood the first year of test on the 4,270 km-long stretch of land on the Western coast of the Pacific. With the nationalization of hundreds of enterprises, mines, banks and other important economic branches, especially of the US capitalists' big copper mines and the requisition with compensation of thousands of latifundia covering over 2 million hectares of land, the Chilean People's Coalition Unity Government clearly evinced its nature as the people's power and paved the way for the Chilean people to be masters of their factories, mines and fields, of their country and own destiny.

Together with Cuba and Chile, with structural reforms and progressive measures aimed at consolidating and defending its national independence, building an independent and sovereign economy, Peru contributed to the revolutionary movement in Latin America, now seething with anti-US feeling, to the recovery of the country's natural resources, defence of the national rights and sovereignty.

This fierce struggle took place under varied forms, such as: nationalization of gas mines and the copper industry in Venezuela and Mexico, cancellation of the contract on US oil extraction in Colombia, restriction of the US monopolist capitalists' special rights in the use and exploitation of natural resources in Peru. With higher taxes imposed on American oil-extracting companies, Venezuela now earns 180 million more dollars each year.

Defence of their sovereignty over the 200 mile-wide territorial waters became an active measure taken against US imperialism by 9 Latin American countries: Chile, Peru, Salvador, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Argentina, Panama, Uruguay and Brazil. In 1971 Ecuador alone seized 51 US ships which had violated or fished in its territorial waters, and compelled the US to pay millions of dollars' fines.

Along with economic actions, the struggle in political and military fields and against US enslaving culture also saw an upsurge. Strikes, class-boycotts, meetings and demonstrations with millions of participants frequently broke out in Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Panama..., demanding US withdrawal from Latin America, national independence, democratic freedoms, social welfare, educational reforms, the recovery of Panama Canal, while condemning US aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina. Many US public offices or enterprises were smashed or assaulted with bombs by demonstrators.

The armed activities against the US and dictatorial regimes were on the increase in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Puerto Rico... In Argentina, the guerillas in one day mounted bomb-attacks on 11 US companies in Buenos Aires, whereas in Puerto Rico, US capitalist enterprises were on 9 occasions similarly damaged. The shaping up of the broad front in Uruguay and the Revolutionary Resistance Front in Bolivia constituted a new and inevitable development after the victory of the Chilean people's solidarity bloc.

No isolated people in Latin America

A united front among the Latin American countries against the common enemy — US imperialism — had been gradually taking shape in recenty ears, ever more vividly in 1971.

As *UPI* has commented, it was a slap in the US face, this taking sides of Latin America with Ecuador, and raising of the dispute over the 200 mile-wide territorial waters at the Latin American Foreign Ministers' Conference and objection to the US retaliatory measures against Ecuador for seizure of US fishing boats in its territorial waters.

Reuter described as a manifestation of the unqualified solidarity among the Latin American countries the unanimous adoption of a document by delegates of the Latin American countries at a "special negotiation committee" held in Uruguay, in strong protest against US discriminatory trading policy regarding the countries of that region. The "Lima Statement" passed by the "Latin America Solidarity" Conference last December 20 which unanimously held that "the pressing task for Latin America at present is to liberate herself from the US imperialists' yoke..."

The process of the formation of the Front has been speeded up by the visits of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro to Chile, Peru and Ecuador, and of Chilean President S. Allende to Peru, Colombia and Ecuador. The US imperialists' blockade and divisive policy towards Cuba and other Latin American countries is being frustrated and will completely fail.

IT is obvious that 10 years after the historic Second Havana Declaration a significant advance of the Latin American people's movement against American imperialism was recorded. *Newsweek* remarked in a recent issue that the past days were not happy days for the Americans in Latin America. And surely nobody has yet forgotten the admission by the Chairman of the sub-committee in charge of Western Hemisphere problems of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee that anti-US feeling is mounting day by day in Latin America, and more revolutions will take place there...

The time when the US imperialists contemptuously regarded Latin America as their "backyard" is gone!

However, the path lying in front of the Latin American peoples is still bristling with obstacles. The US imperialists and the reactionary forces in the Latin American countries will resort to ever more deceptive, disruptive, repressive and terrorist manoeuvres including coups d'état to overthrow the progressive administrations. The struggle will be fierce, but the Latin American peoples, who have been keeping up their watchfulness, broadening and consolidating their united front, will surely win.

DAI LIEN

...an" Exposed

8 points have not opened an avenue to peace, but instead are to drag out the war. The way to peace has been clearly shown in the 7 points of the RSVN PRG which the world peace movement resolutely supports and whose realization it will militate for." At the same meeting, the US delegate, Dr Carlton Goodlett, said: The US people will not be deceived by Nixon's machiavellian manoeuvres, and will further step up the anti-war movement, especially in the coming Spring.

In the United States, J. Gordon of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice denounced Nixon's plan as a trick. He said that the Americans want not a 8-point peace plan but a 1-point plan, that is the US immediate and total pullout from Indochina. Gus Hall, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of the US, criticized Nixon's move as a deceptive electoral manoeuvre, an attempt to establish US political and military rule throughout Indochina and a smokescreen for its continued aggression... Several US Democratic Senators, namely A. Cranston, E. Kennedy, W. Fulbright, G. McGovern, Frank Church..., and Representative P. McCloskey... commented: The plan would not really help end the war, and Nixon's intention was to maintain the quisling administration in Saigon, and to force the Vietnamese people to give up their struggle, and the plan's true substance was that the US would stay on in Viet Nam...

Many GIs in South Viet Nam and members of US prisoners' families held that Nixon's peace proposal contained nothing new. It is but a scheme to win over the American POW families, congressmen and other people who are strongly critical of the prolonging of the Viet Nam aggressive war.

Private R. Skoguin, 20, said: We have heard too many promises and we are still here (in South Viet Nam) fighting for nothing. Specialist 4th class D. Martin declared that like in Korea, the GIs would stay here for ever.

Madame Gerold A. Gartley whose son was captured while flying a US Navy plane in a bombing in Viet Nam, said that Nixon's speech was full of nice words which spelled out nothing, and urged Nixon not to conduct negotiations on the TV. News agencies and the press of the US, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, China, Cuba, the Eastern and Northern European countries, India were unanimous in denouncing Nixon's 8-point plan as a fresh effort move to deceive US public opinion, soothe the American people's movement against the US government's aggressive war in Viet Nam and to hustle votes in the presidential election late this year. This plan was in fact aimed at stepping up "Vietnamization" under a new form.

THAILAND: On January 19 and 20 the patriotic armed forces attacked two police and militia units of the Thanom Praphas in Nakhom Si Thannarat and Loei, wiping out many enemy soldiers. According to *UPI*, the most daring and devastating attacks had landed the Bangkok rule in a rapidly worsening situation.

The *Thai People's Voice* also announced that "from November 15 to December 15, 1971 the patriotic armed forces put out of action nearly 200 Bangkok soldiers and policemen, destroyed many helicopters and military vehicles, and captured a big haul of weapons and war means. They foiled the enemy's "encircling and mopping-up" drive which lasted 11 days in Xieng Rai province and knocked out 84 adverse troops.

THE THIRD WORLD IN EFFERVESCENCE

MALAYA: In 1971, the people's liberation troops and guerillas wiped out over 300 policemen, Malaysian and foreign soldiers, and destroyed two fighter planes and three armoured cars. Along with their military struggle, the political movement also developed and spread right into the enemy's sanctuary.

PHILIPPINES: Of late, Filipinos repeatedly demonstrated against the oppression and exploitation of the US imperialists. From January 11 to 13, 3,000 workers, peasants and women marched from Muntinhepa through Malebon to Manila and staged a rally against the increase of oil price by US companies. On January 16, youths in six cities including Manila held many mass meetings for the cancellation of unequal treaties by the reactionary authorities with the USA and the nationalization of US companies in the Philippines. In Angeles, a demonstration erupted right in front of the US base Clark from which US planes take off to bomb Viet Nam.

MOZAMBIQUE: In four months (July — October 1971) the patriotic armed forces fought off a series of Portuguese raids in Cabo Delgado province, wiping out 250 men, damaged two planes, destroyed two military vehicles and razed many posts. They were also active in Nametil, Meda, Mocimboa Da Praia.

GUINEA (BISSAU): 109 Portuguese soldiers and eight military vehicles were put out of action during relentless assaults by the patriotic armed forces in November 1971.

THE DOLLAR DEVALUED

(Concluded)

IN fact, it is not only now that the leading role of the dollar is called into question. For long many countries have sought to overthrow it. Continuous offensives outbroke, the strength of which depended on the actual economic and financial potentiality of the opponents of the USA. The "gold war" — the first offensive — flared up in early 1965, mainly between the latter and France which, together with a number of other countries, exchanged its stock of dollars for gold. At that time the dollar was devalued in fact, but the correlation of economic and financial forces in the capitalist world did not yet permit the adversaries of the USA to get the upper hand. In late 1967 the pound sterling, the screen of the dollar, had to be depreciated by 14,3%. On the world market the American currency was not able to keep its official rate of 35 dollars to an ounce of gold. A tough gold hunt unfolded afterwards in face of the danger of devaluation. In order to save it from the sharpest crisis since the dollar had established its predominant role, in March 1968 the United States had to declare a halt to the convertibility of the dollar into gold. Thus it has become a paper currency bound to gold on a very limited scale in transactions between the American and other governments. At the start of 1971, as the dollar is no longer basically backed by gold, the problem raised by its rate of exchange to other currencies surfaced in the new crisis. If in 1967-68 one got rid of the dollar for gold so as to strip it of the role it had wrested from gold, this time one exchanged it for "harder" currencies — a fact that testified to its ostensibly decreasing credit. Both "hunts" struck at its leading role in the capitalist monetary system. Both led to a further decline of the dollar. Throughout the world one spoke more and more of its official devaluation. A report, presented on August 7, 1971 by an economic committee of both houses of the US Congress, requested that the American government bring pressure on those of European countries so that the value of their currencies would be raised or, failing this, unilaterally devalue the dollar and stop all conversions of dollars into gold. Immediately another "hunt" for hard currencies with dollars erupted on the capitalist monetary market. The American president had to declare on August 15, 1971 a suspension of all exchanges of dollars for gold. How long would last this stoppage which he described as "temporary"? As a matter of fact, the USA was no longer able to do otherwise. A creditor in the capitalist world after World War II, it had become the biggest debtor of other countries, and an insolvent one at that. All of the remaining stock of gold at Fort Know could not meet the exchanges of dollars owned by West Germany or Japan alone.

Back the Indochinese! Yankees Go Home! Demonstration in Paris

Towards the end of 1971, for the first time since 1934, the USA was forced to declare the devaluation of the dollar after its failure to pressurize other countries into revaluing their currencies. This time it bumped into a kind of "united front" of the main capitalist countries which firmly insisted that it devalue the dollar, a move that they regarded as "contribution" to the stabilization of the disturbed world monetary system. What was to happen has happened. The devaluation of the dollar which occurred against its will came as a major fiasco of the USA in the economic, financial and monetary fields, in the very year that Nixon promised to be a "fine" one.

That is not all.

The devaluation of the dollar was also a grave political and diplomatic setback for the Nixon administration. He began the election year with sombre economic and financial prospects. Industrial production had not recovered the level prior to the July 1969 crisis. The "dead" capacity of industry accounted for one-fourth of the aggregate productive capacity, i.e more than a year ago. Unemployment remained at the 6% mark of the labour force. In addition, more than one half of the employed workers were on a part-time basis. According to Senator Proxmire, judging by the unemployment, by the gap between the present economic position of the USA and the one it ought to have attained, by widespread poverty and the critical economic situation, 1971 was even worse than 1970. Nixon and the members of his administration, alone rated 1970 as a fine year.

Internationally, the devaluation of the dollar has not settled all the differences between the United States and its "allies." In the near future the contention remains sharp particularly in the commercial field on which the Americans pin much hope to improve their balance of payments.

In the long run they will have to stand up to the "collective" competition of the common market countries, of Japan and Canada. One of their old trump cards is the dollar. But as it cannot be converted into gold, their monopoly of issuing banknotes and inflation have lost their effectiveness. The USA can no longer misuse the monopoly of issuing banknotes (whereby the currency of one country is to play the role of a world currency) to invest in Western Europe, grab the resources of other countries at dirt-cheap prices, provide "aid" to reactionary client administrations, maintain American troops abroad, and particularly pay for such aggressive wars as in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. As the value of the dollar has dropped and continues to do so, the USA is forced to choose between reducing spending and cutting down its expansionist and aggressive activities in foreign countries. This is at variance with the objectives set by the Nixon doctrine, namely, securing the highest economic, political and military advantages at the lowest price for the US.

It was no accident therefore that *Bassons*, the mouthpiece of the well-known Dow Jones company, editorially wrote on Nov. 29, 1971 that the August 15 event (Nixon's announcement of his new economic measures) and its sequels were accountable for a series of recent setbacks in US diplomacy. When the dollar was still tightly bound to gold, the US could rely on its friends and allies. But lately it has indeed become a paper tiger. The danger of an economic global war is increasing, the paper concluded.

No matter what advantage members of the Nixon administration may claim the devaluation of the dollar is to bring to the American balance of payments, they dare not hope for the return of the golden era that the US had seen for some time after the 1934 devaluation. The more so after Nixon compared on July 8, 1971 the American empire to the decadent Roman empire. For the US the golden age has gone for ever.

VAN DUC

in brief

o On January 20, a demonstration was held in Oslo against the establishment of the Saigon "embassy" in Norway. Carrying streamers and posters, the protestors marched to the National Assembly and shouted: "Break off relations with the Saigon quislings", "Saigon does not represent anybody", "Victory belongs to the N.F.L", "Recognize the RSVN PRG". After that, they moved to the Saigon information office and staged a rally there.

o On January 21, 1972, in Sofia, over 500 representatives of Bulgarian mass organizations, lawyers, writers and artists, scientists of note... took part in a *tribunal session to try the US imperialists' crimes*. At the hearings, many witnesses denounced the horrendous crimes of the Nixon administration against the Vietnamese people and the prosecutors sternly charged the US imperialists with use of chemical and bacterial weapons of mass massacre in the aggressive war against Viet Nam and Indochina in grave and crude violation of international law and agreements. The session unanimously found "guilty of countless savage crimes in Viet Nam" the "US imperialists and militarists represented by the Nixon government," who must "incur the severe condemnation and reprobation of world-wide opinion for its savage crimes of aggression against Viet Nam and Indochina."

Many similar "tribunal sessions" and meetings of solidarity with Viet Nam were also held in other places in Bulgaria such as Turgovishte, Vidin, Jambol...

o A meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the member countries of the Warsaw Pact in Prague on January 25 and 26 endorsed a statement against the US government's attempt to Vietnamize the war, maintain and support the Nguyen Van Thieu administration in order to pursue the aggressive war against Viet Nam and Indochina. The statement pointed out: "The only way to solve the war in Indochina waged by the US imperialists is to rapidly and unconditionally withdraw all US and satellite troops from Indochina."

The participants in the meeting called on all those concerned with peace and security in the world to strengthen solidarity and support to the resistance war of the Indochinese peoples against US aggression.

o On January 21, Richard Larson, a sailor on the aircraft carrier Midway anchored in the San Francisco gulf refused to go on board in protest against the US aggressive war in Viet Vam.

The same day, at Mountain Home air base, Idaho, George E. Smith, a "Green Beret" who had served the Viet Nam war and been captured and released by the South Viet Nam Liberation troops, distributed leaflets against the intensification of the US air war in Viet Nam.

o On January 23, a meeting was held in Harrisburg to protest against the US authorities' arraignment of seven anti-Viet Nam war champions, including Father Philip Berrigan. The audience listened to a statement of the latter from his prison calling on all honest Americans to step up the struggle against the aggressive war in Viet Nam and demanding that Nixon immediately end this murderous war and withdraw all US troops home.

in brief